9-10 Magic bedazzles Celtics 14-5, improve to 4-3

With the season nearing completion, teams fight for the top spot and the right to play for first in the gold tournament.

LANCE CPL. BRIAN KESTER

STAFF WRITER

The Magic defeated the Celtics 14-5 in the 9- to 10-year-old Marine Corps Community Services-South Carolina youth basketball league at the Depot MCCS-SC gym Feb. 19.

The Magic fought their way through a physical game to a win and a 4-3 record.

For his young players, Kenneth Penderman, coach for the Magic, relies on the fundamentals of basketball. Familiarizing his team with them is what he feels led them to the

"My basic thing is fundamentals," said Penderman. "Tonight we had a lot more offensive and defensive rebounds, and that's what wins the game. You can run all practice, but if you don't have the fundamentals then you will not win."

With the 9 - 10-year-olds, the fundamentals are the key, he said. Working on the lay-ups and rebounds



Tyron Locure, the Magic forward, outruns members of the Celtics during their game at the Depot Marine Corps Community Services-South Carolina gym Feb. 19. The Magic fought their way through a physical game to a 14-5 win.

gametime situations.

In contrast, the Celtics never seemed to attain a comfort level,

tain fight for a spot in the gold tournament.

While gold tournament is for the under that mark.

will lead to a more confident team in leading to the team's loss and a cer- teams in each age group who have a record of more than 50 percent, the silver is for those teams falling

"It was a tough loss," said Josh Cathey, coach for the Celtics. "We played that team the last time and they didn't beat us as bad, but that is the way it goes sometimes."

Cathey has every intention of seeing to it that his team changes the oncourt attitude and works on the little things to ensure a better spot in the tournament.

"We have a chance to play in the gold tournament, but we need to work on rebounding and trying to beat the pressure defense first," he said. "We have one game left and that will determine whether we play in the gold or the silver tournament."

As with Cathey's team, the Magic have some off-court preparations to take care of prior to attaining a good tournament placement.

"We got a lot of travel calls, and we will have to get out of that habit," said Penderman. "Coming down with three men and deciding which one you are going to pass to without slowing the course is one thing we need to work on, along with dribbling drills and passing."

With the tournaments coming up March 6-13, both teams have their goals set.

From there it is only a matter of executing. The Celtics task remains a daunting one as their gold tournament hopes rest on their contest with the Bulls Feb. 24 at the Depot MCCS-SC gym.

Volleyball teams launch 2004 season in new Depot gym

CPL. ALISHA R. **FITZGERALD**

STAFF WRITER

The 2004 Marine Corps Community Services-South Carolina Intramural Volleyball Season kicked off in the new Combat Fitness Center gym Feb. 11.

With some new and returning teams compiling this year's league, players are optimistic and excited about the upcoming season.

Last year's champion, Air Station, will be back to try and defend its title, but with a slightly different makeup. Many of the players from last season's roster are deployed, leaving some hope for some of the Parris Island teams.

A big contender with Air Station last year was 4U2NV. The team came in second in the playoffs, but tied with Air Station for first at the end of the regular season. This year, the team is absent from the league, but one of its key players is back and playing with Band 1, hoping to fuel its success.

"I played with some of the Band players over the summer, so the familiarity was there," said Danny Contreras of his move to Clothing's coach and a returning Band 1 from 4U2NV. "I knew it would be an easy transition."

Contreras is a former All-Marine Volleyball player and has years of experience under his belt, as did many of his teammates from 4U2NV. With many of Band 1's players being a lot younger and newer to the sport, he is excited about the team's potential. He is coaching this year's squad.

"The guys that I played with last year had already reached their volleyball peak, so to speak," said Contreras. "These guys [from Band 1] are full of talent and young enough to still be improving on their fundamentals. They're going to continue to get better."

but were eliminated by Clothing in round three of the post season tournament.

Clothing is back in full force this year, ready to take another stab at the league veterans. Last year was the first time Clothing had participated in the league. With their rookie season out of the way, the players are pumped up about this year.

"This year, we should do even better," said Nicholas Underwood, player. "We still want to have fun, but our objective is to win."

Clothing is known aboard the Depot for the success they had in the 2003 MCCS-SC Intramural Football League, winning first place in the playoffs. The players promise to be just as big of a threat in volleyball.

"We're taking over sports on Parris Island," said Carlos Roberts, Clothing player. "Everybody better have their Agame when they come to play us. If not, they're going to get embarrassed. We're serious about volleyball around here."

Whether they are serious enough to defeat league veterans like Last year's Band 1 team fin- Band 1 and Air Station remains to ished third in the regular season, be seen, but the Clothing players are certain of one thing.

> "Regardless of what sport we compete in, we're going to be known," said Underwood. "I predict we'll be just as victorious as we were in football."

> Clothing has not lived up to its promises so far this year. The only match the team has played was a loss to Medical at the gym Feb. 11. Clothing is scheduled to face Air Station Monday at 8 p.m.

Even with about three new teams in the league this year, there are still only seven total. Contreras said he is disappointed with the decline in the interest of volleyball since he has been in the Marine Corps.

"Years ago, volleyball was so much more popular," he said. "We had plenty of six-man teams and even a women's league. It's changed a lot. They had to cancel regionals last year because there wasn't enough players."

Those who are participating in the league this year are the first to be able to use the new fitness center gym. The format for matches will be the same as last year - four on four with rally scoring.



Cpl. Alisha R. Fitzgerald

Ray Kells, Air Station volleyball player, spikes the ball over the net against CID in a round two game of the Depot's 2003 postseason intramural volleyball tournament at the Marine Corps Community Services-South Carolina gym April 7, 2003. Air Station won the tournament to become the 2003 MCCS-SC Intramural Volleyball champions.

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office spaces and the teller line is more spread out," added Tamy Kardos, a fellow bank teller.

Along with the improved layout will come improved quality of service and a more professional appearance, according to Moore.

"The biggest advantage is that it's three-and-a-half times bigger than the previous building, which means we can provide better service to people and it's more professional," he said. "I think professionalism is not only courtesy and concern, it is also the environment in which you do business."

According to Moore, the process of planning and constructing the building took approximately four years.

"Working with the Marine Corps, they acknowledged the

need for having a larger facility, so we can do better what we think we do best," he said, adding that FSNB has won the award for the Best Bank in the Navy and Marine Corps for six consecutive years. "We coordinated with the Depot as well as Facilities Maintenance and the Navy. It was a concerted effort for everyone to come together."

The \$400,000 it cost to construct the new facility, all of which was paid for by FSNB, was well worth every penny, he added.

"We incurred all the financial responsibility, but it's worth it over all; it's definitely worth it," he said.

Moore also said the process of constructing the new building was "reflective of what can be done for the good of the Marine Corps to assist the military in serving people better."